

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION:

Please add the following new paragraph after paragraph [0044] on page 2:

FIG. 15 is a schematic cross-sectional view of an alternative embodiment of the invention illustrating a portion of the securing device disposed between a patient's molars on the right side of the mouth.

Please replace paragraph [0057] with the following amended paragraph:

[0057] As illustrated in Fig. 15, another alternative embodiment is to fill the channel 202 within the guard with a foam or other similar soft material 54 to provide a better fit to the patient's teeth. This alternative embodiment will also preferably provide additional cushion to any jarring that might occur during intubation or insertion/removal of other medical devices and instruments through the oral cavity. The foam preferably will be a closed cell, foamed polyolefin such as Minicel L200 from Voltek Division of Sekisui America Corp. of Lawrence, Mass.